

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

09/886,073

Examiner

Joseph S. Del Sole

Applicant(s)

BRADY ET AL.

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to the response of 7/9/04.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1, 3 and 7.
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 21 June 2001 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☐ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

The application has been amended as follows:

The claims submitted by the Applicant are repeated here in order to present them in the proper format. No changes (other than status identifiers) have been made to the claims as submitted by the Applicant on 7/9/04.

Claim 1: (Previously Presented) A steam blanket apparatus for blanketing the face of a spinneret with gas comprising:

- a spinneret pack body including a spinneret plate having a lower face with an orifice array through which filaments are extruded;

- a spin head surrounding the spinneret pack body and defining interior walls, wherein the spin head includes a metallic plate extending below the spinneret pack body;

- an annular space disposed between the interior walls of the spin head and the spinneret pack body;

- an external supply source of gas to supply steam into the annular space, such that the steam flows in the annular space around the spinneret pack body and along the spinneret pack body in a primarily downward axial direction; and

- a steam distribution ring abutting the spin head and removably mounted to the spin head, the steam distribution ring including a skirt portion generally

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perpendicular to the distribution ring and situated to deflect the flow of steam from the annular space toward the spinneret orifice array and wherein the steam distribution ring is removable from the spin head without removing the spinneret pack body from the spin head.

Claim 2: (cancelled)

Claim 3: (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the steam distribution ring is located in a counterbore formed in the spin head plate.

Claims 4-6: (cancelled)

Claim 7: (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the steam distribution ring is fabricated from aluminum.

Reasons for Allowance

2. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: the prior art of record fails to teach or suggest a steam blanket apparatus having a spinneret pack body surrounded by a spin head; an annular space disposed between the interior walls of the spin head and the spinneret pack body with a supply source of gas directed in a primarily downward axial direction along the spinneret pack body in the annular space; and a steam distribution ring removably mounted to and abutting the spin head, the ring including a skirt portion generally perpendicular to the distribution ring to deflect the flow of gas from the annular space toward the spinneret orifice array, wherein the steam distribution ring is removable from the spin head without removing the spinneret pack body from the spin head. The closest prior art, Beeck et al (6,146,566), while teaching a flow of vapor fails to teach the flow of vapor directed in a

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primarily downward axial direction along the spinneret pack body in an annular space and a ring having a generally perpendicular skirt that is removable from the spin head without removing the spinneret pack body from the spin head.

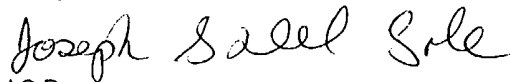
Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Correspondence

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the Examiner should be directed to Joseph S. Del Sole whose telephone number is (571) 272-1130. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday from 8:30 A.M. to 5:00 P.M.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Ms. Wanda Walker, can be reached at (571) 272-1151. The official fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (703) 872-9306 for both non-after finals and for after finals.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from the either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on the access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 886-217-9197 (toll-free).



J.S.D.
August 17, 2004